

Message

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [mpca@public.govdelivery.com]
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To: Rountree, Jillian [Rountree.Jillian@epa.gov]
Subject: EPA finalizes 2020 Impaired Waters List and MPCA opens 2022 draft List for comment

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EPA finalizes 2020 Impaired Waters List and MPCA opens 2022 draft List for comment

You are receiving this message because you have subscribed to the notification list for Minnesota's Impaired Waters List.

Final 2020 Impaired Waters List

In March 2021 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partially disapproved Minnesota's 2020 Impaired Waters List citing the lack of sulfate impairments for waters used for the production of wild rice. After two public comment periods, EPA finalized the 2020 List with the addition of 32 waters impaired for sulfate.

Draft 2022 Impaired Waters List

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) today released its draft impaired waters list for 2022 that added 305 water bodies with 417 new impairments, bringing the total to 2,904 water bodies with impairments.

Unhealthy conditions for fish and bugs continue to be the most common impairment, with 39 more lakes proposed for fish impairments and 104 streams for fish and/or bugs. These impairments result from poor habitat and other conditions that stress aquatic life. Other proposed listings include high levels of bacteria (30 streams), sediment (25 streams), and nutrients (18 lakes).

The MPCA added 15 water bodies as impaired for PFOS in fish tissue on the draft list and, for the first time, includes water bodies in Greater Minnesota.

After feedback from EPA and Minnesota's Tribal Nations, the MPCA has included three new waters that exceed the sulfate wild rice standard. This brings to total number of wild rice sulfate impairments to 35 on the 2022 list.

Public comments encouraged through January 7, 2022

Minnesota's draft impaired waters list will be on public notice through January 7, 2022. The MPCA invites Minnesotans to submit comments on whether additional waters should be placed on the list or be removed. Public meetings will be held virtually in December 2021. For information about upcoming public meetings and how to comment please visit the MPCA's impaired waters list webpage.

As required by the federal Clean Water Act, Minnesota develops a list of impaired waters every two years. The draft 2022 list is due on April 1, 2022 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will make the final decision on approving the list.



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